

# Access SC SDB

**Embrace the Possibilities — Access the Future SC School for the Deaf and the Blind**

## One-to-One Technology is Our Goal

Every student in grades 3-12 will soon receive a MacBook Air or an iPad through our One-to-One Initiative. Funded by a SC Legislative appropriation, the program represents a big step forward in increasing student independence and academic achievement.

"Students will be able to use all of the usual research, writing, and routine computer functions, but they will also take advantage of many new accessibility applications for individuals who are deaf or blind," said Trad Robinson, chief information officer.

Students who are blind will learn about scan functions that can determine colors and identify the denomination of money. Speech features and voice commands will help students navigate their new devices and read text. A dictation application will convert a student's spoken words into text, saving time spent typing. A magnifier is built in, and students can adjust fonts and colors to meet their specific needs.

Students who are deaf will benefit from access to FaceTime, captioned videos, and text messaging as well as flashing and vibrating alerts. Students who are sensory multidisabled will be able to adjust screens for physical needs, utilize voice commands, and take advantage of keyboard shortcuts. Students with limited mobility will be able to use the devices to work problems on the classroom smart board without leaving their desks.

"We're identifying more and more uses for individualized technology," said Rita Easler, our new technology integration coordinator. "The future for our students looks very exciting."

*Alexis Tabb likes the dictation function on her new MacBook Air. "It is so much easier than just typing," she said.*



## Now Enrolling!

Plan ahead for the new school year! Consider a call to discuss the options available for your child. We offer on-campus educational programs as well as a wide variety of outreach programs in public school districts across the state.

Tours are available for potential students and parents as well as professionals. For more information, contact:

Loreta Dylgjeri, Admissions Coordinator

Toll-free: 1-888-447-2732

Phone: (864) 577-7579

E-mail: [ldylgjeri@scsdb.org](mailto:ldylgjeri@scsdb.org)

*Organizations from throughout the Upstate joined us for Career Day. In the photo, Officer Eric Quinn from the Department of Natural Resources shows Marquel Latimore how to catch a fish using a video game that shows the water and the fish on a screen. Read more about Career Day inside.*



## Students Perform Before the SC House of Representatives

Fine arts students were invited to perform before the SC House of Representatives again this year. The performance included the two songs "Happy" and "Defying Gravity." Parents and representatives of the school's Board of Commissioners attended to support the students and enjoy the performance.



Above: Students were delighted to receive a standing ovation for their performance before the SC House of Representatives.



Far left: Anna Milligan chats with Representative Tommy Pope after the State House performance.



Left: Performing "Happy" are Joselyn Segura in pink, Maya Patterson in blue, Brianna Oliphant in green, and Alexis Blandshaw in purple.

## Students Learn Good Character Traits Through Charitable Activities

Good character is one of our core values. Students raise funds for local charitable organizations and volunteer their time. Recently, students raised \$2,500 for the American Heart Association through "Jump Rope for Heart" and "Hoops for Heart."



Far left: Charnaye Brown and Torez Foster partner jump in the Jump Rope for Heart event.

Left: Teachers cheer on Charles Harris as he prepares to shoot a basket as part of the American Heart Association fundraiser. From left are teacher Sanford Keyes, athletic director Michael Sims, teacher Nathan Pressley, and Charles Harris.

## Welcome to Access SCSDB!

The future looks very bright for our students. Technology has provided increased academic, accessibility, and career options within a very short time frame. Even more developments are promised in the near future.



Margaret Park  
SCSDB President

Currently, our students who are blind or visually impaired use scanners, enlarging devices, and talking/dictation computers to simplify class work and increase their independence. Students who are deaf or hard of hearing have increased access to spoken language through video phones, video relay, amplification systems, and cochlear implant assistance. Students who are physically challenged operate computers, voice output devices, and recording equipment as well as toys and games using a variety of pointers, activation switches, and touch screens designed to meet their unique needs.

The possibilities technology offers today and in the future are unlimited. As parents and professionals, we must identify new developments and introduce our students to them. We must eagerly accept the responsibility to make sure our students have the tools needed to be part of the bright future technology offers.

Sincerely,

*Maggie*

Margaret Park  
President

President Park has accepted a position as director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Converse College. While she will be leaving our school, she will continue to contribute to our future by training the next generation of teachers and partnering with us to continually improve special education in our state. Thank you and best wishes, Maggie!

## Coming Up at SCSDB!

- 5/23 School Improvement Council**  
11 a.m., Swearingen Conference Center
- Awards Day**  
8 a.m., High School for the Deaf, Swearingen Conference Center  
9 a.m., Elementary School for the Deaf, Thackston Fun Room  
10 a.m., Cedar Springs Academy, School for the Blind  
11 a.m., Middle School for the Deaf, Swearingen Conference Center
- 5/29 Graduation**  
11 a.m., Pulliam Auditorium, Walker Hall

Please see our full calendar at [www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org). For more information on events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact us at [info@scsdb.org](mailto:info@scsdb.org) or toll-free at 1-888-447-2732.

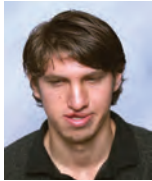


## SCSDB Gold Stars!



Our academic team won the sportsmanship award at the **Regional Academic Bowl**. Congratulations to **LeAndrew Watson, Lyndsay Shafto, David-Michael Peck, and Kia Smith**.

**SC Regional Braille Challenge** stand-outs included: Rookies **Derique Simon**, first place, **Alex Duncan**, second place, and **Keriston Woodbury**, third place; Freshman **Elijah Gregory**, second place; and Junior Varsity **Alexis Faulkenberry**, third place.



Congratulations to Martha Castro's Class for taking first place in the **Reading Fair** with their representation of "Because of Winn Dixie." Class members include **Grace Bridges, Brianna Shirley, and Jayquan Jenkins**.



**Kia Smith and Destiny McCarter** were named to the **All Mason-Dixon Basketball Tournament Team**. **Kia, Destiny, and Raheem Jenkins** were selected to the **United States Deaf Basketball High School All Star Teams**. **Raheem** was named to the first team **Region II-A All-Region Boys' Basketball Team**.

**Alex Duncan** qualified for the **Region II AA Upper State Wrestling Tournament**.



## Science Fair Winners

First place elementary school Science Fair winners for "Fizz Inflator" were, front row from left, **Austin Cathcart, Xavier Adams, and Alan Goana-Lopez**; back row from left, **Aiden Kneee, Braylin Taylor, Pedro Gutierrez, Sasha Patrick, and Lana Cedeno**.



First place in the Science Fair high school category were **Gerri Morton, Sarah Castor, and Derrick Good**. Their project was "Does Cooking Destroy the Potential Vitamin Levels?"



Taking first place Science Fair honors in the middle school category were **Aryeona Freeman**, pictured, and **Makayla Strayhorn**. Their project was "Superstitions: Truth or Urban Legend - You Be the Judge."

Spelling Bee winners were: **Svetlana Weaver**, first place; **Elijah Griffin**, second place; and **Brianna Shirley**, third place.

*Kia Smith has been selected for the Region II-A All Region Basketball Team and the All Area Girls' Basketball Second Team. She was also named Spartanburg Herald-Journal Girls' Basketball Player of the Week. She is shown here with her coach Amelia England.*



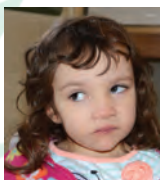
*School for the Deaf students Svetlana Weaver and Khyiana Tate concentrate during the annual spelling bee.*



# Welcome New Students!

## School for the Blind

Hayleigh Huggins of Marion  
Anmariah Myers of Blacksburg  
Brooklyn Raulerson of Gaston  
Dianna Roseboro of Roebuck  
Brandon Simmons of Simpsonville



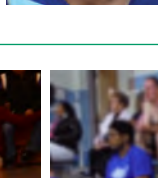
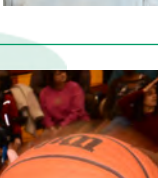
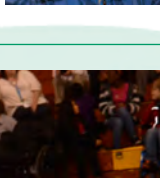
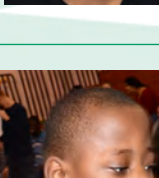
## School for the Deaf

Luis E. Hernandez of Myrtle Beach  
Lucas J. Nation of Laurens



## Cedar Springs Academy

Kameron Gladden of Spartanburg  
Jair Hedgepeth of Mauldin



*\*The students listed had enrolled at the publication deadline. New enrollees are welcome year-round.*

## Special Olympic Winners

First Place Special Olympic basketball players included: **Dominique Dotson**, **Curtis Sparkman**, **Chassidy Kelly**, **Maya Patterson**, and **Jyda Good**.

First Place Special Olympic cheerleaders included **Kadiedra Hay**, **Lillian Elmore**, **Hailey Gundling**, **Brandy Mesquite-Reyes**, and **Elliot Germany**.

CSA student **Jacyln Breakfield** won the first place blue ribbon for the 15 meter walk in the Special Olympics aquatics competition. Other first place Special Olympians in aquatics included: **Torez Foster**, **Jyda Good**, **Josie Segura**, **Jaclyn Breakfield**, **Tyler Willis**, and **Chassidy Kelly**.



Jacyln Breakfield shows off the first place blue ribbon she won.

Tristan Bradley tries his hand at dribbling during Special Olympics Basketball Competition.



Alexis Strother-Egleston, left, and Ta'Nayia Moates made tall hats at the Dr. Seuss reading party.

## Statewide Optimist Speech Contest Winners

Congratulations to students who received medals in the Optimist Club Speech Contest. They were, left to right, **LeAndrew Watson**, SC School for the Deaf and the Blind, second place; **Destiny McCarter**, SC School for the Deaf and the Blind, first place; and Makayla Middleton, Charleston County School of the Arts, third place.





## Recent Graduate Finds Success in Automotive Industry

Bonuses, awards, and great co-workers are just a few of the reasons Dearon Harrington enjoys his job at Röchling Automotive.

The 2013 graduate of the SC School for the Deaf, has been on the job at Röchling for seven months. During that time, he has received two Employee of the Month Awards, several bonuses for good performance, and a pay raise.

Dearon says that he and his co-workers make a great team. "They accept me and we help each other," he said. "They take the time to communicate with me. They repeat things and write notes when needed."

As a machine operator, Dearon makes wheel house covers, window frames, and dash accessories for BMW, Mercedes, Ford, and Chrysler. He also operates a fork lift, a skill he learned in our school's Applied Academics Center.

"Dearon is a good worker and does a great job wherever he is assigned," said his supervisor Clifton Lindler. "He has a great attitude and gets along with everyone."

Business is good at Röchling and lately Dearon has been logging in extra hours and overtime. He also



Dearon Harrington has a different assignment every night at Röchling Automotive. In the photo, he checks details as parts come off the assembly line.

does yard work on the side. "I share an apartment, I'm looking at buying a new truck, and I'm saving for a house," he said.

Even though Dearon is very busy, often working seven nights a week, he still makes time to give back to his school. He volunteers as an assistant football coach for the offensive and defensive lines and recently spoke to the students at Career Day.

His advice for future graduates is "Take responsibility for yourself. Be on time. Stay on the good path. Don't depend on the government. Support

yourself and your family."

Dearon gives much of the credit for his success to his teachers at the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind – especially Tony Lee. Mr. Lee taught Dearon's industrial skills class and contacted Röchling Automotive on Dearon's behalf. He assisted Dearon with an interview, finding an apartment, moving from Wallace, and obtaining hearing aids.

What's in the future for Dearon? "I don't want to get my hopes up, but I might be a shift leader or a supervisor one day," he said.

## Students Explore Options at Career Day

Want to be a truck driver? A helicopter pilot? Or maybe even mayor?

Students were able to find out more about these occupations and many more at our annual Career Fair. Booths were set up by companies throughout the Upstate, and students were able to talk with individuals at the booths, including some of our very own graduates. Souvenirs, food tastings, and activities made the day exciting and fun for the students.

Spartanburg Mayor Junie White talks with student Devon Carter as Cindy Nakom, associate teacher, looks on.

Flight paramedic Lori Migala, left, shows student Chandler Horton the inside of a medical helicopter.

Raymi Robles takes the wheel of a truck at the Career Fair.





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**South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind**  
355 Cedar Springs Road - Spartanburg, SC 29302

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## Embracing the Possibilities

The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help identify and develop each student's highest potential. Together with local school districts, we strive to match children who are deaf or blind with the best educational options to meet their individual needs.

Options available through the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind include:

- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers
- PreK-12 education programs on the main campus in Spartanburg (residential and day)
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide
- Mainstreaming opportunities with Spartanburg area school districts
- Summer Camps for children ages 6-14
- A wide variety of accessibility services

All services are available at no cost to families.

## Contact Us!

### **SCSDB Main Campus - Spartanburg**

1-888-447-2732 Voice/TTY  
(864) 585-7711 Voice/TTY  
355 Cedar Springs Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
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### **Statewide Division of Outreach Services**

1-800-984-4357 Voice/TTY  
(803) 896-9848 Fax  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 120, Saluda Building  
Columbia, SC 29210



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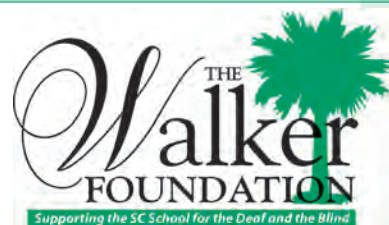
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### **SCSDB is Accredited by:**

- *AdvancEd/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement*
- *Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf*
- *SC Department of Education*

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